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ANNUAL REPORT

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RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Port Medical Officer of Health for Year 1957

WATERLOO HOUSE,
WATERLOO ROAD,
BLYTH.

January, 1958.

To the Chairman and Members of the River Blyth Port Health Authority.

Gentlemen,

Once again it is my privilege to place before you the Annual Report on the work of the Port Health Administration for the Port of Blyth, for the year 1957.

As in preceding years this report is presented in accordance with the instructions issued by the Minister of Health—Form Port 20, and Circular 33/52. Detailed information will be found in the Sections I to XVI.

The total number of vessels which arrived during the year was 3,724, including Fishing Vessels. This is a slight increase on the previous year. Foreign Vessels (Foreign and Coastwise) numbered 879, including Fishing Vessels. The number of arrivals direct from Foreign Ports was about the same as in the previous year.

The amount of Coal and Coke shipped from the Port during the year was 5,208,142 tons, this also includes Bunker Coal, a very slight decrease on the previous twelve months. Imports discharged at the Port were: Timber 19,678 loads, Cement 40,840 tons, Sand 7,351 tons, Roofing Tiles and Sundries 7,114 tons.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952

The above Regulations became operative from the 1st October, 1952, and deal with the Infectious Diseases, now to be known as Quarantinable Diseases, sanitary control of ships and persons, Deratting Certificates, etc. Certificates issued will be found in the appropriate Tables.

INSPECTION OF VESSELS

The work of dealing with nuisances and defects (structural and otherwise) will be found in the appropriate tables included in the report.

I again record with pleasure the kind assistance received from time to time from the Blyth Harbour Commission, River Pilots, H.M. Customs Officers, Immigration Officer, also the Ministry of Transport Surveyors for their help and co-operation with the staff of the Port Health Authority.

R. J. P. R. CAMPBELL, M.B., Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

MEMBERS OF AUTHORITY AT 4th JUNE, 1957

Chairman : Councillor A. H. Payne.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor F. Rafferty.

Alderman G. Colpitts.

Alderman Mrs. M. E. Thompson.

Alderman A. Walton, J.P.

Councillor E. Breadin.

Councillor P. Maw.

Councillor Mrs. M. Purves.

Councillor E. Purvis.

Councillor M. K. Roach.

Councillor W. B. Robson.

Councillor A. Rutherford.

SECTION I—STAFF

Table A

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other Appointments held
Mr. W. T. Harrison	Clerk to the Authority	1st September, 1944		Deputy Town Clerk, Borough of Blyth.
Miss L. Owen ...	Deputy Clerk to the Authority	1st October, 1947	A.C.I.S.	Town Clerk's Staff, Borough of Blyth.
Dr. R. J. P. R. Campbell	Medical Officer of Health	1st October, 1949	M.B., Ch.B.	General Practice.
Dr. A. M. Tait ...	Deputy Medical Officer of Health	1st July, 1951, Resigned 31st January, 1957	M.B., Ch.B.	General Practice.
Dr. R. Craig ...	Deputy Medical Officer of Health	1st April, 1957	M.B., Ch.B	General Practice.
Mr. J. Dilks ...	Public Health Inspector	15th June, 1928 Retired 31st January, 1957	Public Health Inspectors Certificate R.S.I. Meat and Food Cert. R.S.I.	None.
Mr. Norman F. Godfrey	Public Health Inspector	1st February, 1957	Public Health Inspectors Certificate R.S.I. Meat and Food Cert. R.S.I.	None.
Mr. Robert H. Cramp	Rodent Officer	11th January, 1952	-	None.
Mrs. Ann Miller ...	Office Clerk	1st March, 1954		None.

Dr. R. J. P. R. Campbell's address:
Waterloo House, Waterloo Road, Blyth, Northumberland.
Telephone No.: Blyth 226.

SECTION II

Amount of Shipping entering the District during the year

Table B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of Ships reported as having or having had during the Voyage Infectious Diseases on board.
			By the M.O.H.	By the Public Health Inspector	
Foreign Ports ...	204	137,057	2	204	—
Coastwise Ports ...	3,133	2,150,916	5	3,133	3
Totals ...	3,337	2,287,973	7	3,337	3

Fishing Vessels—	No.	Tonnage
Foreign	382	26,652
Coastwise	5	1,136

Crews

Foreign	Coastwise	Fishing	Total
5,638	44,157	5,758	55,553

SECTION III

Character of Shipping and Trade during the year 1957

Table C

Passenger Traffic ...	Number of Passengers INWARDS	25
	Number of Passengers OUTWARDS	47
	Passengers on Temporary Shore Leave	59

There is no regular passenger traffic at this Port (See table for Aliens).

Cargo Traffic ...	Principal Imports	Sand	7,351 tons
		Mining Timber ...	115,950 ,,
		Other Timber... ...	3,728 ,,
		Cement	40,840 ,,
		Roofing Tiles ...	2,973 ,,
		Sundry	4,141 ,,
	Principal Exports	Coal & Coke (Cargo) (including Bunkers)	5,208,142 ,,
		Fuel Oil (Bunkers) ...	3,745 ,,
		Sundry	425 ,,

Fish landed was valued at £16,315.

Principal Ports from which Ships arrive :—

FOREIGN PORTS—

Belgium	Antwerp, Brussels, Ghent, Ostend.
British Guiana...	Georgetown.
China	Hong Kong.
Denmark... ...	Aaalborg, Aarhus, Copenhagen, Cuxhaven, Esbjerg, Horsens, Karlstrand, Kyndby, Odense, Randers, Tuborg.
Faroes	Klagvik.
Finland	Abbo, Helsinki, Mantyluoto.
France	Bayonne, Brest, Caen, Calais, Dieppe, Le Havre, Rouen.
French West Africa...	Dakar.
French Morocco	Casablanca.
Germany ...	Altona, Bremen, Emden, Hamburg, Kiel, Lubeck, Rendsburg.
Holland ...	Amsterdam, Delfzijl, Dordrecht, Groningen, Rotterdam, Terneuzen, Ymuiden, Zaandam.
Iceland	Reykjavik.
Norway	Arendal, Bergen, Oslo, Sauda.
Poland	Gdynia, Stettin, Swinouiscie.
Sweden	Gefle, Gothenborg, Halmstad, Helsingborg, Jacobstad, Kalmar, Karlsham, Kristinestad, Malmo, Norrkoping, Nykoping, Stockholm.
U.S.A.	New Orleans.

SECTION IV

Inland Barge Traffic

There is no barge traffic at the Port.

SECTION V

Water Supply

Samples were collected from points on the West Staiths, North Side, and South Side, South Harbour and Waterboat. Of the 27 samples submitted for bacteriological examination 7 were found unsatisfactory. Immediate remedial measures were put into operation and further check samples proved to be satisfactory.

SECTION VI

Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952

No change.

SECTION VII

Smallpox

1.—The Northern Regional Hospitals Board have made arrangements for the admission of Smallpox cases to the Langley Park Isolation Hospital, Co. Durham (Telephone No.: Chester-le-Street 3207). The Doctor in Charge of this hospital will be Dr. Gavin Miller, of Sacriston, Co. Durham. His Telephone No. is Sacriston 232.

2.—The Northumberland County Council are responsible for the ambulance service. Dr. A. Donaldson, the Medical Officer for the Blyth and Bedlington Local Authorities, is responsible for the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

3.—Names of Smallpox Consultants Available :—

Dr. J. R. Beal,
109, Great North Road,
Gosforth, 3,
Newcastle upon Tyne.
Telephone No. : Gosforth 5-2240.

Dr. Wilson Minns,
16, Rectory Drive,
Gosforth, 3,
Newcastle upon Tyne.
Telephone No. : Gosforth 5-4282.

4.—Facilities for Laboratory Diagnosis of Smallpox. Laboratory facilities are provided at the General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 4.

SECTION VIII

Veneral Disease

No change.

SECTION IX

Cases of notifiable and other Infectious Diseases on ships.

Table D

Category	Disease	Number of Cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from Foreign Ports...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports, but have been disposed of before arrival	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases landed from other ships	Malaria	Nil	2	2
	Chickenpox	Nil	1	1

No other infectious diseases occurred in the Port.

SECTION X

Observation on the occurrence of Malaria in ships

Although ships have come from Malarious areas to the port, the only two cases reported occurred in coast bound ships. The two men affected had both suffered previously during foreign service in the war years.

SECTION XI

Measures taken against Ships infected with or suspected of Plague

Inquiries as to the prevalence of rats are made on all ships in Port (whether in possession of Deratting Certificates or Deratting Exemption Certificates or not) and a systematic inspection is carried out on all ships arriving directly or otherwise from foreign ports.

A systematic search for evidence of infestation is carried out on all vessels.

SECTION XII

Measures against Rodents in Ships from Foreign Ports

1.—On arrival at the Port vessels are examined and if there is any evidence of rats notice is at once served on the Master. The Port Health Authority have their own official Rodent Operator. Particular attention is given to vessels arriving directly or indirectly from infected areas.

2.—Rats caught were examined, and all specimens appeared healthy. None showed any abnormal lesions, and none was therefore sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne.

3.—When a vessel is found to be infested with rats notice is served on the Master requesting fumigation. He, through his Agent, gets in touch with an authorised firm of fumigators to carry out the work. The chief and most popular method is by Hydrogen Cyanide. The standard required for International purposes is strictly adhered to. Sulphur Dioxide is now rarely used.

When vessels are undergoing fumigation every precaution is taken, such as posting of notices on the ships, also the fencing off of the gangways to render the process as free as possible from accidents. The minimum period for exposure for this gas is two hours, generally four to six in practice, and this effects a considerable saving of time compared with the older method of Sulphur Dioxide.

Contractors who carry out fumigations HCN at this port are :—

Messrs. A. Milburn & Co. Ltd.,
Mill Dam,
South Shields.

Messrs. Barber & Herron,
Templetown,
Tyne Dock,
South Shields.

4.—In the Construction of modern vessels considerable progress has been made in the provision of rat-proof compartments. Bulkheads and partitions are usually steel, and with a minimum of timber, it is difficult for rodents to find harbourage. Modern Naval Architecture is coping with the problem satisfactorily.

Table E

Rodents destroyed during the year in Ships from Foreign Ports

Category	Number
Black Rats	24
Brown Rats	—
Species not known	—
Sent for examination	—
Infected with Plague	—

All specimens have been examined macroscopically.

The total number of brown rats recovered from the Quayside after poison baits have been put down was 631.

Table F

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year 1957 for Ships from Foreign Ports

No. of Deratting Certificates issued					Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued	Total Certificates issued
After Fumigation with		After Trapping	After Poisoning	Total		
HCN 1	Other Fumigant (state method) 2	3	4	5	6	7
—	—	—	—	—	109	109

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year 1957

Net Tonnage	No. of Ships	No. of Deratting Certificates issued				No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued	Total Certificates issued
		After Fumigation with			After Trapping Poisoning, &c.		
		HCN	Sulphur	HCN and Sulphur			
Ships up to 300 tons ...	31	—	—	—	—	31	31
Ships from 301 tons to 1,000 tons ...	48	—	—	—	—	48	48
Ships from 1,001 tons to 3,000 tons ...	26	—	—	—	—	26	26
Ships from 3,001 tons to 10,000 tons ...	4	—	—	—	—	4	4
Ships over 10,000 tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	109	—	—	—	—	109	109

SECTION XIII

Inspection of Ships for Nuisances

Table G

Inspection and Notices

Nature and Number of Inspections		Notices Served		Result of Serving Notices
		Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Routine Inspections...	S/S 1,859	Nil	88	Defects remedied
Do.	M/V 1,478	Do.	29	Do.
Do.	F/V 387	Do.	—	—
TOTAL ...	3,724	Do.	117	Do.

SECTION XIV

Public Health (Shell-fish Regulations) 1934 and 1948

No Change.

SECTION XV

Medical Inspection of Aliens

This is not an approved Port for the landing or inspection of Aliens.

The number of Aliens who arrived at the Port was 8 (See Table C, Section III).

SECTION XVI

Miscellaneous

Mortuary—No change.

Food Inspection—No change.

NATIONALITIES OF SHIPS

British	2,843
German	155
Dutch	218
Swedish	45
Finnish	20
Danish	30
Norwegian	15
Costa Rican	3
Liberian	2
Panamanian	1
Icelandic	1
Syrian	1
French	2
Russian	1
	3,337

Brought forward	3,337

FISHING VESSELS

British	5
Polish	240
Dutch	132
German	7
Icelandic	3
	387
GRAND TOTAL FOR YEAR	3,724

VESSELS BOARDED

The following table gives a list of vessels boarded during the year by the Medical Officer of Health or Public Health Inspector on account of disease on board during the voyage or whilst in Port.

All cases set out below received attention and treatment.

Date	Name of Vessel and Nationality	Where from	Rating	Sickness
1. 1.57	Michael M (British)	London	Sailor	Tonsillitis
8. 1.57	Norrix (British)	Middlesbrough	Sailor	Dermatitis
3. 2.57	Tora (Finnish)	Aalborg	Mate	Suspected Heart trouble
3. 2.57	Tora (Finnish)	Aalborg	Seaman	Broken Ribs
5. 2.57	Eminence (British)	Antwerp	Engineer	Sprained Ankle
6. 2.57	Hudson Bay (British)	Dagenham	Engineer	Sprained Ankle
13. 2.57	Hermann Blume (German)	Tyne	Sailor	Tonsillitis
17. 2.57	Corstream (British)	London	Mate	Pneumonia
22. 2.57	Georgina V. Everard (British)	Glasgow	Sailor	Accident
27. 2.57	Sagacity (British)	Yarmouth	Mate	Injured foot
29. 2.57	Hudson Bank (British)	London	Sailor	Septic Hand
9. 4.57	Heyshott (British)	London	Steward	Accident
24. 4.57	Hudson Bank (British)	London	Captain	Malaria
2. 5.57	Copsewood (British)	Southampton	Captain	Accident
29. 5.57	Holdernain (British)	Esbjerg	Seaman	Dislocated Shoulder
17. 6.57	Camroux I (British)	Middlesbrough	2nd Engineer	Broken Ribs
27. 6.57	Crescence (British)	Tees	Seaman	Fractured Skull
27. 6.57	Foreland (British)	London	Mate	Fractured Ribs and Jaw
3. 7.57	Vivo (Dutch)	Tees	Seaman	V.D.
11. 8.57	Balmoral Queen (British)	Antwerp	Chief Engineer	Chickenpox

VESSELS BOARDED—continued

Date	Name of Vessel and Nationality	Where from	Rating	Sickness
27. 9.57	Stock Force (British)	Aberdeen	2 Firemen	Influenza
1.10.57	Cormist (British)	London	3 Firemen	Influenza
5.10.57	John Charrington (British)	London	Bosun	Malaria
9.10.57	Portwood (British)	London	Cook	Influenza
9.10.57	Portwood (British)	London	Steward	Influenza
9.10.57	Corburn (British)	London	Bosun	Influenza
9.10.57	Cormain (British)	London	Mate	Influenza
9.10.57	Cormain (British)	London	Chief Engineer	Influenza
9.10.57	Queensland (British)	London	Fireman	Influenza
10.10.57	Hudson Strait (British)	London	Mate	Influenza
13.10.57	W. J. H. Wood (British)	London	Mate	Influenza
14.10.57	Sociality (British)	Tyne	2 Seamen	Influenza
31.10.57	Harriet Seider (German)	Hamburg	Seaman	Injured foot
3.11.57	W. J. H. Wood (British)	London	Fireman	Kidney trouble

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951

1 Rodent Control Certificate was issued during the year.

NOTES ON SOME CASES REPORTED

3rd February, 1957. S.S. Tora (Finnish). The Chief Officer of this vessel collapsed shortly after arrival in port. He was examined by the Federation Doctor and after treatment returned to the ship where arrangements were made for his return home.

17th February, 1957. M.V. Corstream (British). On arrival the Chief Officer was reported as seriously ill. He was found to be suffering from Pneumonia. After preliminary treatment in hospital he was able to return home to convalesce and was later reported to have made a good recovery.

11th August, 1957. S.S. Balmoral Queen (British). The Chief Engineer on arrival in the port was diagnosed as suffering from Chickenpox. He was permitted to return home. His effects and accommodation were disinfected by the officers of the authority.

27th September, 1957. S.S. Stock Force (British). On arrival at the port two firemen were diagnosed as suffering from Influenza whilst in port other members of the crew succumbed to the infection. As the vessel was going to lay up, the more seriously affected members of the crew were allowed to remain on board until recovered sufficiently to travel. Others were paid off.

27th June, 1957. S.S. Foreland (British). Whilst returning to the ship the master slipped in between the vessel and the shore sustaining a fractured jaw and ribs. Fortunately members of the crew were able to effect an immediate rescue. He was admitted to hospital for treatment and later made a good recovery.

VESSELS FOUND HAVING STRUCTURAL OR SANITARY DEFECTS

	Structural Defects		Sanitary Defects		Total
	Foreign	Coastwise	Foreign	Coastwise	
British Steam	4	24	1	58	87
British Motor	1	13	3	10	27
British Sail	—	—	—	—	—
Foreign Steam	—	—	—	1	1
Foreign Motor	—	—	1	1	2
Foreign Sail	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	37	5	70	117

Only one vessel was required to be fumigated for vermin during the year. This was carried out by the officers of the authority.

A quantity of foodstuff was found to be unfit for human consumption and certified as such. Arrangements for the disposal and destruction of the same were carried out.

DEFECTS

	Work in hand	Work completed	Total
Crews Accommodation painted out	—	7	7
Crews Accommodation repaired	—	1	1
Officers Room painted	—	1	1
Port Lights renewed and repaired	—	5	5
Sanitary Tanks renewed and repaired	—	3	3
Sanitary Pipes renewed	—	2	2
New Fresh Water Pipes	—	4	4
Fresh Water Pipes renewed and repaired	—	2	2
Fresh Water Tanks cleaned and cement washed	—	17	17
Fresh Water Pumps renewed and repaired	—	4	4
Larger Fresh Water Tanks installed	—	1	1
Water Taps renewed	—	2	2
Sink Waste Pipe renewed	—	1	1
Wash Basins renewed	—	5	5
Fresh Water Tanks renewed	—	2	2
Defective Pump to fresh water	—	1	1
Fresh Water Pipes cleaned and lagged	—	1	1
Waste Pipes renewed	—	3	3
Radiators repaired	—	2	2
Galley Stoves renewed and repaired	—	6	6
Galley Funnels renewed	—	2	2
Galley Boiler repaired	—	1	1
Galley Sink repaired	—	1	1
New Flue Central Heating	—	1	1
New Central Heating Stove	—	2	2
Protective Screen To Stove	—	1	1
Bogie Stoves Funnels and Flues renewed and repaired	—	2	2
Central Heating Pipe repaired	—	1	1
Stove Flue repaired	—	1	1
New Central Heating Tank	—	1	1
Scuppers cleaned and repaired	—	3	3
Ventilator renewed	—	1	1
Refrigerators repaired	—	2	2
New Storage Locker	—	1	1
Doors renewed	—	4	4
Floor renewed	—	1	1
Windows repaired	—	1	1
Defective Flushing Cistern	—	1	1
No outlet for waste water (Wash House)	—	1	1
W.C.'s repaired and renewed	—	15	15
New Lavatory Pipe	—	1	1
New Lavatory Cistern	—	1	1
W.C. Flushed on to Quay	—	2	2
	—	117	117

VESSELS ARRIVING FROM INFECTED OR SUSPECTED PORTS

The following table gives the number of vessels boarded in Blyth by the Officers of the Port Health Authority, on account of them coming directly or indirectly from Foreign Ports, infected or suspected of being infected with Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Smallpox, Typhus Fever, or Relapsing Fever.

1957	From Infected Ports to Blyth		From Suspected Ports to Blyth		Total
	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	
January	—	—	—	—	—
February	—	—	1	—	1
March	—	—	—	—	—
April	1	—	—	—	1
May	—	—	—	—	—
June	—	—	—	—	—
July	—	—	—	—	—
August	—	—	—	—	—
September ...	—	—	—	—	—
October	—	—	—	—	—
November... ...	—	—	—	—	—
December ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	1	—	1	—	2

The four out-of-date dilapidated sanitary conveniences previously existing on the North, South and West Staiths have now been replaced by modern accommodation with water closets, wash basins and hot and cold water.

Wm. Dresser & Sons, Ltd.
Crown Street . Darlington

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